GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1973
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
CONVERSION OF SEA WATER INTO POTABLE WATER
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed the technique ofconverting sea water into potable water on a commercially viable basis;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up such plants in the Coastal Arid Zones of the country for their socio-economic development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Two processes for the desalination of water from the sea, viz. Multi Stage Flash (MSF) and Reverse Osmosis (RO), have been developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The plant for production of 1800 cubic metre per day of desalinated water from sea water by Reverse Osmosis process at Kalpakkam, Tamil Naduhas already been commissioned in August 2002. The demonstration plant located at Kalpakkam with MSF technology which is under construction, will produce 4500 cubic metre per day of desalinated water from sea water.

(b) & (c) Drinking Water being a State subject, all schemes including those for converting sea water into potable water are formulated and executed by the respective State Government. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) under Department of Atomic Energy is capable of giving technical assistance to any State/Central Government/agency for setting up such desalination plants in coastal areas.